16 February 1952

AIB, 4, 3/16

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director [redacted] G

SUBJECT : Program for Project Artichoke

THE PROBLEM:

To provide technical support for the operating offices in order that they may utilize existing special interrogation techniques as well as new techniques as they may become available.

FACTS BEARING ON THE PROBLEM:

1. Information is available on certain special techniques which are of sufficient potential to warrant their consideration in connection with CIA operations.

2. While these techniques have not been developed and evaluated completely, further development can proceed more rapidly under field conditions than in domestic laboratories.

3. Availability of these techniques in the field would be of material advantage to CIA in selected operational cases of an ad hoc nature.

4. Use of these techniques requires personnel with special training and experience. Efforts to recruit such personnel or to obtain them through the CIA Medical Staff have been ineffective to date.

5. Personnel with the requisite training might be obtained under contract through one or more of several consultants who are conversant with the technical problems involved and who consider certain types of field experimentation necessary and desirable.

6. Arrangements can be made for full clearance and indoctrination of personnel selected by CIA for this work, prior to their becoming

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aware of CIA interest in or the true nature of the program.

DISCUSSION:

1. The investigation of special interrogation techniques has failed to uncover any radically new and effective procedures which would give promise of meeting CIA's operational needs, in toto. This fact might have been anticipated since, up to a certain stage of development and use, there is no difference between that which CIA is seeking and that for which psychiatrists and criminologists have been searching over a number of years of intensive research.

2. Several potentially useful techniques are known which are in fairly common use in psychiatry, and some of which have been used by criminologists to verify innocence or guilt in criminal cases. The techniques suggested are narco-hypnosis which has been used with success both in psychiatric and criminological work, and electric shock, leucotomy and combinations of the latter with hypnosis which to our knowledge have been tried only in psychiatry. The different conditions which would pertain in CIA operational use prevent a final evaluation of the full potential of these techniques until they have actually been tested under realistic field conditions. Such testing is not practicable at present, partly because of the fact that this is a rather complex operation to establish, but basically because CIA has not been able to obtain personnel with the proper qualifications to administer the techniques.

3. While it is feasible, theoretically, to prepare manuals which would permit individuals with some medical background to administer some of the techniques, this procedure is not recommended. Similarly, the hiring of general medical practictioners for subsequent education and training

in the techniques is practicable but not the most effective method. Actually, the use of these techniques is as much an art as it is a science, and much of what effectiveness exists would be lost unless a specialist were available to participate during any experimentation.

4. The demand for personnel competent in the fields concerned is such that direct hiring of suitable personnel for permanent employment in CIA is almost out of the question. An alternate procedure offers possibilities and is suggested for consideration. Through contact with CIA cleared consultants, it has been learned that specialists in at least some of the fields could be obtained on a contract basis. The individuals concerned would not know of CIA interest in their services until they had been carefully screened, security cleared, and indoctrinated. They would not become CIA employees in fact and thus would retain their association with their parent organization. Control of their activities relating to the project both during their period of service and afterward would be as good, or perhaps better, than that achieved with regular employees.

5. If this suggestion is considered favorably, action can be started at any time toward the processing of candidates. A period of about six months from initial processing date to date of availability for field assignment should be anticipated. If action could be expedited, the coming summer months would be most suitable since many of the candidates will be doing graduate work during the regular school year.

6. An additional advantage to this procedure is the fact that the candidates who do participate in CIA field operations can continue research projects in their parent organizations along the more promising lines as revealed by their operational work.

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CONCLUSIONS:

1. Development of special interrogation techniques now believed to have a potential for CIA operational use requires the adoption of a program for procuring personnel skilled in the use of these techniques and establishing them in the field where they can operate under operational conditions.

2. A possibility of procuring some of the personnel with the required specialties is believed to exist.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That CIA give consideration to this procedure in view of the expressed operational need for this type of assistance in interrogations.